

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on March 24, 2006. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 5 – 7, 9, 11, 12, 16, 19 – 22, 25, 27, 29, 32, 33 and 37 are amended, claims 2, 4, 17, 18 and 31 are canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1, 3, 5 – 16, 19 – 30 and 32 – 37 are now pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4-7, 12, 18-22 and 31-37 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 23-28 were allowed.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 4, which was stated to be allowable, and is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 4 has been cancelled. Claims 2, 3, 5 – 7, 8 – 11 and 13 – 15 are also believed to be in condition for allowance at least because of their dependency on claim 1.

Claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claims 10 and 11, and is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 16 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 18, which was stated to be allowable, and is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 18 has been cancelled. Claims 17 and 19 - 22 are also believed to be in condition for allowance at least because of their dependency on claim 16.

Claim 29 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 31, which was stated to be allowable, and is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 31 has been cancelled. Claims 30 and 32 - 37 are also believed to be in condition for allowance at least because of their dependency on claim 29.

Claim 25 has been amended to be dependent on claim 23. Claim 25 was previously dependent on claim 22, which was a typographical error.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 8, 9, 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Filipovic (U.S. 2004/0120421) in view of Ugajin et al. (U.S. 6,549,074).

Claims 2 and 3 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Filipovic and Ugajin et al. and further in view of Koyama et al. (U.S. 5,384,501).

Claims 10, 11 and 13-15 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Filipovic and Ugajin et al. and further in view of Zoehner et al. (U.S. 6,400,218).

Claims 16 and 17 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ugajin et al. in view of Koyama et al.

Currently pending claims 1, 3, 5 -- 16, 19 -- 30 and 32 -- 37 are believed to be in condition for allowance in view of Applicants' remarks under "Allowable Subject Matter". In view of this, the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is believed to be overcome.

Conclusion

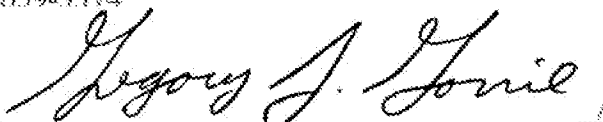
Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney, Greg Gorrie at (480) 659-3314 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,
MALCOLM H. SMITH ET AL.

By their Representatives,
SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A.
P.O. Box 2938
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402
(480) 659-3314

By /



Gregory J. Gorrie
Reg. No. 36,530